Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 29, and replace it with the following:

With reference now primarily to Figures 2-4, the illumination system 10 according to the present invention may comprise a hollow reflector 24 having an interior reflective surface 26 and an exit aperture 28. As will be described in greater detail below, it is generally preferred that the interior reflective surface 26 comprise a diffusing reflective surface so that light incident thereon is scattered or diffused over a wide angle. A light source 30, such as a ~~flourescent~~ fluorescent lamp 32, is positioned within the hollow reflector 24 in the manner best seen in Figure 4. The illumination system 10 also comprises a first reflector 34 positioned adjacent a first side 36 of the exit aperture 28 of the hollow reflector 24. A second reflector 38 is positioned adjacent a second side 40 of the exit aperture 28 of the hollow reflector 24. As will be described in greater detail below, the first and second reflectors 34 and 38 comprise specular reflecting surfaces and are positioned in generally non-parallel, spaced-apart relation so that the first and second reflectors 34 and 38 at least partially collimate light passing through the exit aperture 28 to form a collimated beam 42. See Figure. 4. It should be understood that the terms "collimated" and "collimated beam" as used herein also refer to partially collimated and partially collimated beams in that ~~the~~ a completely collimated beam is rarely produced by any real optical system.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 11, and replace it with the following:

The interior wall 50 of elongate body 48 is provided with an axially-oriented opening or slot therein that defines the exit aperture 28. As will be described in greater detail below, the particular location (i.e., radial position) of the axially-oriented opening or slot should be selected so that the at least partially collimated beam 42 produced by the illumination system 10 will be directed to the appropriate location on the object 18. The arc subtended by the axially-oriented slot that defines the exit aperture 28 should be selected so that a substantial portion of the light

produced by the light source 30 and reflected by the interior reflecting surface 26 will ultimately traverse the exit aperture 28 before being absorbed by components and materials contained within the interior 58 of the hollow reflector 24. By way of example, in one preferred embodiment wherein the interior reflecting surface 26 has a generally circular cross-section, the arc subtended by the axially-oriented slot may be in the range of about 15° to about 50° (31° preferred). Alternatively, other angles may be used depending on the requirements of the particular application, as would be obvious to persons having ordinary skill in the art after having become familiar with the teachings of the present invention.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 30, and replace it with the following:

The light source 30 may comprise any of a wide variety of light sources that are currently available or that may be developed in the future for producing light along the length 52 of the hollow reflector 24. By way of example, in one preferred embodiment, the light source 30 may comprise a ~~flourescent~~ fluorescent lamp 32 of the type that are well-known in the art for such applications and that are readily and commercially available. Alternatively, other types of light sources, such as incandescent lamps, may also be used.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 7, and replace it with the following:

The second embodiment 110 may comprise a single elongate body 148 which is shaped or formed as necessary to provide the various reflecting surfaces. For example, the body 148 may be provided with a first interior wall 150 which defines a first generally cylindrical hollow reflector 124 and a second interior wall 150' that defines the second hollow reflector 124'. The body 148 also defines first and second exit apertures 128 and 128' for each respective hollow reflector 124 and 124'. In the embodiment shown and described herein, the body 148 also defines first and second reflectors 134 and 138 for the first hollow reflector 124, as well as first and

second reflectors 134' and 138' for the second hollow reflector 124'. The body 148 may be provided with an opening 127 therein positioned between the first and second hollow reflectors 124 and 124' to allow an imaging system (not shown) to image a scan line 154 contained within the illuminated scan region 144. Each hollow reflector 124 and 124' may be provided with a corresponding light source 130 and 130' which, in the embodiment shown and described herein, may comprise respective first and second ~~flourescent~~ fluorescent lamps 132 and 132'.